

REMARKS

New claims 17-32 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found in the as-filed specification, for example as follows;

Claim No.	Page, Line Nos.
17	Page 8, Lines 17-19
18	Page 3, Lines 24-25
19	Page 8, Lines 20-22
20	Page 8, Lines 17-19
21	Page 8, Lines 1-6
22	Page 8, Line 7
23	Page 8, Lines 26-28
24	Page 9, Lines 1-4
25	Page 8, Lines 20-22
26	Page 8, Line 11
27	Page 8, Lines 1-6
28	Page 8, Line 7
29	Page 8, Lines 26-28
30	Page 8, Lines 17-19
31	Page 3, Lines 24-25
32	Page 8, Lines 20-22

The Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 8, 2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the Background Section of Applicant's specification. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2648735 is discussed on page 1. Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 2001-276104 is extensively discussed beginning on page 1 and continuing to page 3. Applicant respectfully submits that the concise explanation required by the Patent Rules has been provided, and requests that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on April 8, 2004 be fully considered.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 86/00013. Specifically the Examiner states that Example 3A of the '013 patent discloses a reducing composition comprising ammonium thioglycolate, non-ionic

surfactant, perfume, disodium ethylene diaminetetracetate, opaquing agent, aqueous ammonia solution, and deionized water.

Applicant has carefully considered and reviewed the cited reference, and believes that the amended claims submitted herein are patentably distinct from the '013 reference. The '013 reference teaches that the reducing composition is an aqueous solution. (page 3, line 9-11). In contrast, amended claim 1 and new claims 20 and 26 recite a nail softener composition that is in the form of a cream, paste, or gel.

The '013 patent does not teach or suggest a reducing composition that further comprises carotene, keratin, protein or calcium. In contrast, new claim 20 now recites a nail softener composition that further comprises carotene, keratin, protein or calcium.

The '013 patent does not teach or suggest a reducing composition that further comprises an anti-fungal or antimycosis drug. In contrast, new claims 18, 24 and 31 recite a nail softener composition that further comprises an anti-fungal or animycosis drug.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the above amendments and arguments, Applicant believes that the claims are patentably distinct from the cited reference, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4, and 17-32. Sixteen new claims have been added. Claims 5-16 have been withdrawn, leaving a total of 20 claims. Therefore no fee is believed due with the filing of this Amendment.

The undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 5, 2007